

LEAD AND COPPER PROGRAM

HEALTH EFFECTS FOR COPPER

Short-and long-term effects: Copper is an essential nutrient, required by the body in very small amounts. However, EPA has found copper to potentially cause the following health effects when people are exposed to it at levels above the Action Level. Short periods of exposure can cause gastrointestinal disturbance, including nausea and vomiting. Use of water that exceeds the Action Level over many years could cause liver or kidney damage. People with Wilsons disease may be more sensitive than others to the effect of copper contamination and should consult their health care provide.

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/pdfs/factsheets/ioc/copper.pdf>

HEALTH EFFECTS FOR LEAD

Short- and Long-term effects: Lead can cause a variety of adverse health effects when people are exposed to it at levels above the action level for relatively short periods of time. These effects may include interference with red blood cell chemistry, delays in normal physical and mental development in babies and young children, slight deficits in the attention span, hearing, and learning abilities of children, and slight increases in the blood pressure of some adults.

Long-term effects: Lead has the potential to cause the following effects from a lifetime exposure at levels above the action level: stroke and kidney disease; cancer.

http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/lcr/fs_consumer.cfm

WHO TO CALL

All questions pertaining to the health effects, sampling schedule, when you should sample, site selections, should be directed to the TCEQ Lead and Copper Program.

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